1/8/70

Dear Sylvia,

Some time ago, I was given a copy of Newman's (you'll please excuse the expression?) book. I have little time for casual reading, so I've not finished with it. I have found a certain negative value in it, perhaps several. Where I've read the quotes from the hearings, it has tended to make me think Iof what long ago I'd forgotten. And it has, as the mind resist this torturing, made me think along lines I hadn't, at least in some time.

It fascinates me, as does the fact that it could be published at all. It is terrible, boring even to one with a deep interest in the subject. It has to have been as it should have been anticipated to have been, an financial disaster to the publisher - if unsibsidized. I doubt that his publication of Brener's book, for which there was better prospect, was worthwhile to weither, in financial measurement.

Newman had a book done long, long ago. This one bears internal evidence of being, essentially, that book. So, because of the sneaking suspicion I am developing, I write to aask that when it will be no burden to you, what you can spare the time, you tell me what, if anything, you know about him and his book and his publisher-and any connections.

Despite his contrary protestations, that he monitored Radio Hanaven and things like that, the possibility, if not, indeed, the probability, exists that he had access to the FBIS transcripts. I simply cannot conceive of even a really dedicated man, bugged as this one so obviously is, could have taken the time not only to record but to transcribe such awful pap and so extensively. FBIS is classified. The classification used to be low, but it always was classifie Unless there has been a change, it is under CIA.

If you know, does he work for a living now? Is he of independent means? Retired?Formerly connected with other than Newsweek?

There is little new here. I stay too busy, spreading myself too thin on too many things, trying to protect against too many hazards, all to the detriment of more constructive work The one case I've filed on which I have a layer is due for a hearing in a week. Said lawyer knows little about the subjett, hasn't been in touch with me and has been away, so I hope that for purposes of this hearing the technicalities of the law may be all that is involved - and that he knows enough about them. In response to another of my suits (of which Mary has a copy), the government admits the Archives has only some of the evidence of the assassination. This I will be exploring further and in my own way. I've prepared two of the (I think) relevant responses. From Paul bothing new. He has yet to make any response to what I sent him, other than to express concern for my ulcer. Hope you are well.

Sincerely,

Harold

Sorry - I know nothing whatever about Newman or his publisher

Hastily,

Sylvia

11/17/70